

March 5, 1984

LB 908

I urge the Legislature to reject the Wagner amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Howard Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I urge that Senator Wagner's amendment be adopted. Senator Newell speaks eloquently about the problems, but he doesn't have any Class VI districts in his area. Really it's not his problem at all. This amendment is an effort to solve a problem out in areas where there are Class VI. Very simply it lets the people vote on whether they want to continue to be a part of that Class VI or not. What could be more democratic than that. Under the present law, if nothing is done and the city expands its boundaries, then the boundary of the city school district automatically follows the city boundary. That hasn't happened in Omaha. If this is to be the philosophy of this Legislature we should say Omaha, you will be one big school district. You know you have District 66, what do you have, you have two or three other school districts part of the metropolitan area. So there is no real viable reason why the city boundaries and the school district boundaries should coincide. You are aware of the problems out at Grand Island, where Grand Island would like to expand and take the school district property with them. They've got Grand Island Northwest, which was formed out there because the City of Grand Island at one time did not want those students from outside the city district. Now they have really a good school out at Grand Island Northwest. Grand Island wants to expand its city boundaries which is proper, should be done, needs to be done. But there is no reason why the school district boundaries should be expanded exactly as the city boundaries. So this bill is the logical solution. It is let the people vote. Now if nothing is done, if nothing is done under current law the school...the city gobbles up the surrounding schools. I don't think that is fair. I think once you think about it you'll agree that it's not fair. I ask you to adopt Senator Wagner's amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I have a little